

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2008

Contact Person

Robert A. Anderson
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Timothy Sweetland, 59, of Garden Grove, Calif., was sentenced yesterday by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to a term of 87 months in federal prison and 4-years of supervised release for a conviction of conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine from June, 2005 to December, 2005 in the Cadott, Wis. area.

On December 21, 2007, co-defendant Lauren Pitchell, 30, of Costa Mesa, Calif., was sentenced to 54 months in federal prison and 4-years of supervised release for her role in the conspiracy. Pitchell entered a guilty plea to the conspiracy charge on October 16, 2007, and Sweetland enter a guilty plea on December 5, 2007.

Sweetland and Pitchell worked together in California to coordinate shipments of methamphetamine from Huntington Beach, Calif. to Michael Kitchen, of Cadott. Kitchen then sold the methamphetamine in Cadott and Chippewa County, sending monies raised from the drug sales to Sweetland and Pitchell in California. Kitchen was prosecuted and convicted of state drug trafficking charges in connection with his activity.

The indictment and conviction of Sweetland and Pitchell were the result of an investigation by the West Central Drug Task Force and the Chippewa County Sheriff;s Office. The prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

#